

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 80-119, without prejudice, and add new claims 120-152, as indicated below in the listing of claims.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-119 (canceled).

120. (New) A handle for a tool configured for an assigned group of hands having an average hand width, the handle comprising:

- a body having a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis extending between the ends;

- the body having a finger section and a palm section, the finger section for engagement with the fingers of a user, the finger section extending along the longitudinal axis, and the palm section for engagement with the palm of the user, the palm section extending along the longitudinal axis and substantially opposing the finger section;

- wherein the palm section includes a distal part adjacent the distal end, a proximal part adjacent the proximal end, and a center part that lies between the distal part and the proximal part, wherein the center part has a convex portion with a curvature forming a three-dimensional surface that bulges outwardly in two directions with maxima that are substantially perpendicular to each other relative to a Cartesian coordinate system orientated perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the point at maximum distance from the longitudinal axis is disposed approximately in the center of said surface, the distal part of the palm section includes a first concave portion and the proximal part of the palm section includes a second concave portion, the first concave portion and the convex portion of the center part defining a first turning point, the second concave portion and the convex portion of the center part defining a second turning point, the convex portion having a length, measured between the first and second turning points along a line parallel to said longitudinal axis, of between 45% and 55% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands.

121. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the curvature of the surface of the convex portion of the palm section along the longitudinal axis has a radius of between 60 and 120 mm at said maximum point.

122. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the proximal part has a surface contour that continuously decreases from the center part to the proximal end wherein the length measured between the maximum of the center part and the proximal end of the proximal part amounts to between 50% and 55% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands.

123. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the proximal part has a continuously concave surface contour from the center part to the proximal end wherein a length measured between the maximum of the center part and a minimum of the distal part amounts to between 43% and 56% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands.

124. (New) The handle according to claim 122 wherein a length measured between the maximum of the center part and a minimum or central point of the proximal part amounts to between about 36% and about 51% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands.

125. (New) The handle according to claim 123 wherein a length measured between the maximum of the center part and a minimum of the proximal part amounts to between about 33% and about 37% of the average hand width of said assigned group of hands.

126. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the surface of the curvature contains a generatrix that extends from the distal part to the proximal part, with said generatrix representing the geometric location of all points that have the greatest distance from the longitudinal axis in the center part in all cross sections along the longitudinal axis.

127. (New) The handle according to claim 126 wherein the generatrix is a plane curve.

128. (New) The handle according to claim 126 wherein the generatrix is a three-dimensional curve.

129. (New) The handle according to claim 128 wherein the points of the three-dimensional curve partially lie on one side of a plane that extends perpendicular to a central plane and includes the longitudinal axis with part of said points lying on the other side of said central plane.

130. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein all generatrices of the surface of the curvature have a convex progression.

131. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein cross sections taken along the longitudinal axis are asymmetric relative to a plane extending along the longitudinal axis and including the maximum point of the center part and the longitudinal axis.

132. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the handle has essentially an egg-shaped or oval cross section contour.

133. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the body is one piece, and the palm section is integrally connected to the finger section by an inner section.

134. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the distal part includes a substantially planar thumb support surface.

135. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the body comprises two pieces, wherein the palm section and the finger section respectively form at least part of first and second handle parts, and wherein the first and second handle parts are separated by an intermediate space, the first and second handle parts being adapted for pliers.

136. (New) The handle according to claim 135 wherein the palm section and the finger section are configured in a substantially laterally-reversed symmetric fashion about a central plane.

137. (New) The handle according to claim 135 wherein the palm section and the finger section are configured in a substantially laterally-reversed symmetric fashion about a central plane.

138. (New) The handle according to claim 135 wherein the body has continuous cross sections which are oval, or egg-shaped cross sections if imaginary surfaces along the longitudinal axis which connect lateral regions of the palm and finger sections are included.

139. (New) The handle according to claim 135 wherein the finger section is substantially cylindrical.

140. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the body is substantially continuous and smooth.

141. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the handle has an asymmetric shape for a right-handed user.

142. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the handle has an asymmetric shape for a left-handed user.

143. (New) The handle according to claim 141 wherein the left-handed asymmetric shape is laterally reversed with respect to a right-handed asymmetric shape for a right-handed user.

144. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the handle is assigned to a group of small hands.

145. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the handle is assigned to a group of large hands.

146. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein the handle is assigned to a group of medium hands.

147. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein a length measured between the maximum of the center part and a minimum of the distal part is 35 to 55 mm long.

148. (New) The handle according to claim 120 wherein a length measured between the maximum of the center part and a minimum or central point of the proximal part is about 30 to 55 mm long.

149. (New) A tool comprising a functional part and a handle according to claim 120, the functional part being mountable to the handle.

150. (New) A tool set comprising a plurality of tools, each tool including a functional part and a handle according to claim 120, the functional part being mounted to the handle, each functional part being the same, and at least two handles being configured for a different assigned group of hands.

151. (New) A handle set comprising a plurality of handles, each handle being in accordance with claim 120.

152. (New) The handle set according to claim 151 wherein at least two handles are configured for a different assigned group of hands.